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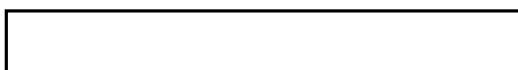
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State Department review completed

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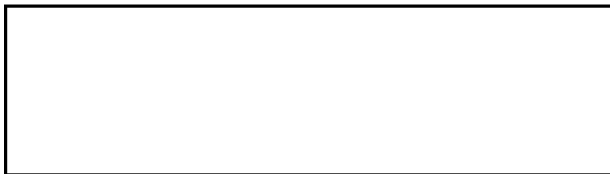
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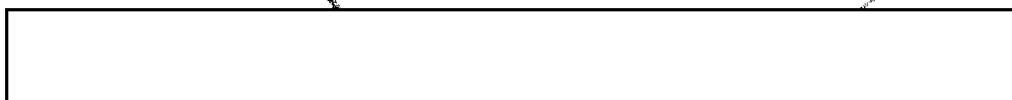
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LAOS: Rightist pressure on Souvanna appears to be delaying signing of the agreement on implementation of the February accord. Senior Lao Army officers and other rightists are seeking major changes in the present draft.

--They object to a provision requiring most Lao Army combat troops to withdraw from Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

--The army wants the Communists to recognize some additional government enclaves within the Communist zone.

--Several right-wing leaders reportedly believe that the duties of the Joint National Political Council, whose primary task will be to organize elections, must be more precisely defined to preclude it from replacing the National Assembly.

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Souvanna is angered by this last-minute attempt to make major changes, but has agreed to make the effort to gain further concessions.

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EGYPT-CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Egypt became Czechoslovakia's largest economic aid recipient with the granting in August of almost \$120 million in new assistance to the Egyptian agricultural, transport, and industrial sectors. The new credits, repayable over 12 years at 2.5-percent interest, bring Czech aid to Egypt to almost \$275 million, roughly 30 percent of total Czech aid extended to developing nations since 1954. The agreement was signed during the Egyptian Foreign Minister's recent visit to Prague.

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BANGLADESH: Prospects for the summer rice harvest appear better than the government expected earlier, and Dacca has raised its crop estimate to 3 million tons, in line with UN mission estimates. A substantial fall in rice prices from record levels--down 20 percent since late April--also suggests an improving food situation. The UN and the US mission in Dacca agree that the good summer harvest and already committed foodgrain imports--including recent US and Soviet commitments--should provide Bangladesh with sufficient food to get the country through the critical October-November period that precedes the main harvest.

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HAITI: Several cabinet changes on 9 August were apparently intended to bring more competence into the government, but they are unlikely in themselves to reduce increasing general dissatisfaction with the regime. No military slots were involved in the changes, which were not as extensive as had been anticipated. The departure of President Jean Claude Duvalier's politically controversial sister from the country on the same day, however, plus the fact that the changes were announced by a minor cabinet minister rather than by the President, will probably set off a new round of rumors that more cabinet changes are coming.

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Pakistan: Fazal Elahi, the candidate of President Bhutto's party, has been elected president of Pakistan. When the new constitution goes into effect next week, Bhutto will become prime minister and the presidency will be only a ceremonial office.

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New Zealand: Wellington has announced a price and wage freeze. Earlier measures aimed at controlling price increases have been ineffective, and prices have continued to rise at an annual rate of more than 10 percent.

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*\*These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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